

issuance of patents, to limit the number of acreage available for waste disposal under millsite claims, as well as to uphold Clinton-era environmental requirements referred to as the '3809 regulations.'

Indeed, perhaps the times are changing. Interior Secretary Norton, while rescinding most of the reforms contained in those '3809 regulations' has endorsed certain reform principles such as the concept of a production royalty and revisions to the patent system. And even the youthful president of the National Mining Association, Jack Gerard, has been discussing reform options as well.

The fact of the matter is that the issue of insuring a fair return to the public in exchange for the disposition of public resources, and the issue of properly managing our public domain lands, is neither Republican or Democrat. It is simply one that makes sense if we are to be good stewards of the public domain and meet our responsibilities to the American people.

This means that the Mining Law of 1872 must be reformed.

MINERAL EXPLORATION AND DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2002

SUMMARY OF PROVISIONS

MAINTAINS existing claim location system. GIVES holders of hardrock mining claims exclusive right of possession and use of the claimed land for mineral activities if claim held in compliance with the Act.

MAKES PERMANENT the \$25.00 location and \$100 annual claim maintenance fees with an inflation adjuster. All monies received from such fees would be dedicated to clean up of old, abandoned hardrock mines in the West.

PROHIBITS the issuance of patents for mining and mill site mining claims except for those with grandfather rights.

Reserves an 8 percent of the net smelter return royalty on the production of hardrock minerals from any mining claim under this Act; all moneys dedicated to the clean-up of abandoned hardrock mines in the West.

Requires mineral activities on Federal lands to be conducted in a manner that minimizes adverse impacts to the environment.

Prescribes surface management guidelines for the granting of permits. Requires applications for such permits to contain both an operations plan and a reclamation plan, and evidence of financial assurances.

Mandates reclamation of lands subject to mineral activities to a condition capable of supporting their prior uses, or to other beneficial uses.

Establishes national reclamation standards for hardrock mining.

Allows State standards for reclamation, bonding, inspection, and water or air quality which either meet or exceed Federal standards to be used in place of national standards.

Allows cooperative agreements for surface management responsibilities between the States and the Interior Department but prohibits outright delegation.

Requires land use plans to identify areas unsuitable for hardrock mining.

Authorizes government to deny or condition permit approvals as needed to protect special resources.

Requires withdrawal of areas unsuitable for hardrock mining from future mineral exploration and development.

Declares persons in violation of the Act ineligible for future permits.

Establishes the Abandoned Locatable Minerals Mine Reclamation Fund to be administered by the Secretary of the Interior for the reclamation and restoration of land and water resources adversely affected by past hardrock mineral activities on public lands.

Authorizes user fees to reimburse the United States for expenses incurred in administering this Act.

Prescribes procedural guidelines for public participation requirements.

Sets forth Inspection and Enforcement requirements.

Authorizes citizen suits to enforce compliance.

GABRIEL EREM'S "LETTER FROM THE BALCONY" ON THE CRISIS FACING JEWS IN EUROPE AND THE MIDDLE EAST

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 16, 2002

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I recently received an insightful essay entitled "Letter From the Balcony" from my dear friend Gabriel Erem, the editor and publisher of *Lifestyles* magazine and a prominent journalist. In this document, Mr. Erem discusses the current situation facing Jews in Israel and in Europe and their treatment by their Arab neighbors in the Middle East and their treatment by their fellow citizens in western Europe.

The American people have watched in horror and dismay as the people of Israel have suffered terrorist attack after terrorist attack. We have voiced our outrage at the increasing number and violence of the racist atrocities that have been perpetrated against Jews by our allies in western Europe. As Americans, we have a responsibility to support those who uphold the institutions and the principles of democracy—and, as we have repeatedly emphasized, Israel is the only democracy in the Middle East. There is a commonality of values that binds us inextricably with the people of Israel. As Americans, we have a firm commitment to tolerance and understanding, and for us the brutal intolerance we have seen from our European allies toward their own citizens is truly sickening.

Mr. Speaker, the tone of Mr. Erem's essay is sorrow, not anger. He brings to this discussion a personal feeling that I understand at the most fundamental level. Gabriel Erem lost 186 relatives in the notorious Nazi extermination camp at Auschwitz. He has suffered first-hand the horrendous consequences of intolerance and hate.

Sadly, our world has not seen the end of such intolerance and violence. As we continue the struggle against the forces of chaos, prejudice and terrorism thrust upon us by the tragic events of September 11th, we have seen the blind and vicious hatred against Israel increase. We have seen anti-Semitism in Europe erupt. We have watched in amazement as the governments of our European allies have supported the perpetrators, not the victims, as blood and horror are unleashed against our democratic ally, Israel. We have watched as these same European governments have stood silent while their own Jewish citizens have been targeted and abused and as Jewish institutions and businesses are attacked by mobs.

Mr. Speaker, Gabriel Erem's essay, "Letter From the Balcony" is of great significance, and I would like to share it with my colleagues in the House. I ask that it be placed in THE RECORD. I urge all of my colleagues in the

House to read and carefully consider his valuable words.>

"LETTER FROM THE BALCONY"

by Gabriel Erem

I can't sleep tonight. It is a rainy, gloomy night in Basel, Switzerland. I have just seen heart-breaking news photos of the funeral of the 18-year-old niece of Israel's soft-spoken United Nations Ambassador Yehuda Lancry, victim of the recent suicide bombing in Haifa. She was a pretty girl. She was in the wrong place at the wrong time. Now she is one of 466 victims of Arab terror murdered in cold blood since former Prime Minister Barak offered Arafat a deal for a Palestinian State. The response from Arafat and his ilk has also been 3,827 innocent Israelis maimed for life while they were in cafes, supermarkets, pizzerias and buses.

I step out to take a deep breath. I am standing on the balcony of the 976-year old Drei Konige Hotel, on the exact same spot where Theodor Herzl once stood back in 1896. At the time, as a journalist, he was covering the infamous Dreyfus trial and was so revolted by the rabid anti-Semitism of 19th century Europe that he wrote *Der Judenstaat* (The Jewish State), the book that became the blueprint for the creation of the modern State of Israel. Who would have thought that in 2002 Jews living in the former Soviet Union and Poland and Germany are safer than those living in Jerusalem, Tel Aviv and Haifa?

I am looking at the murky waters of the Rhine, thinking of how little the world has changed. Behind me in my hotel room a strange Arabic language music video is blaring on my TV set. I return to the room to watch how Egypt's Nile TV (one of at least eight Arabic language channels offered via satellite in Switzerland) is repeatedly running a strange video clip backed by a hundred-piece orchestra, with a singer in a wailing voice extolling the struggle of Palestinian "freedom fighters." In a masterfully edited video montage, Israeli soldiers are firing at innocent Palestinian children as if they were target practicing. A Palestinian child is hit by a hail of bullets and in grainy, documentary-like slow motion falls to the ground to the wailing sounds of the orchestra in the background.

The lead singer weeps and a new "martyr" is born.

I flip the channel. There is an Arabic language documentary, showing a Palestinian suicide-kindergarten, where the curriculum focuses mainly on marching to patriotic war songs and preparing children for "martyrdom operations" against the Jewish enemy. The classroom walls are wallpapered with posters of young Palestinian youngsters who blew themselves up as human bombs. In one shot there is a placard next to the blackboard, depicting a swastika and the Star of David dripping in blood side by side.

On the next channel, the master media manipulator Saeb Erakat is shouting at the camera, with a wall-size poster of Jerusalem behind him, declaring Yasser Arafat the "democratically elected leader of his people." And the world believes him!

The kaffiyeh-clad commentator on the Kuwaiti channel is shedding crocodile tears for their suffering Palestinian brothers, conveniently forgetting the fact that his country promptly cleansed itself of nearly all of its Palestinians in the wake of the Gulf War in which Yasser Arafat characteristically took the side of Saddam Hussein.

The next news item is more cheerful however; it speaks of the upcoming opening of Villa Moda, a super-luxury shopping mall, one of the most opulent in the Middle East, owned by the Majed al Sabah, the nephew of

the Emir of Kuwait, where those believers—who no longer want to mingle with the riff-raff and travel to increasingly dangerous places like London, Paris and New York—can spend their American petro dollars to buy the latest Chanel bags.

Then there is a commentary on why the Kuwaitis and their Saudi brothers should not allow the American “infidels” to use Arab soil to attack their Iraqi brethren. It would upset the peace of their own fiefdoms. CNN’s commentator laments Iraqi children dying of hunger due to food shortages. On the next Arabic channel Saddam Hussein’s recently increased premium payments to suicide bombers’ families and his announcement to give \$25,000 to each homeless Palestinian are praised with admiration.

I can’t fall asleep, so I keep changing the channels. The European television stations are showing news footage of French synagogues being burned at the hands of unseen perpetrators and the unbelievable news that the French convict Jean Marie Le Pen, who called the gas chambers of Auschwitz a “detail of history,” came in second in the first round of the French presidential election. “Austrians remember the times when the mass media of Paris fell all over themselves calling Austria a hopeless Nazi-land,” remarks the Austrian journalist Ernst Trost in a rapid-fire commentary aimed at the French.

There is an item on German TV about a young Hasidic man beaten savagely by “persons unknown.” British commentators on the BBC are giving lessons in morality to Israeli Jews who “militarily conquered other peoples’ land.” I wonder, “What a blatant double standard! What was Great Britain doing two decades ago sending its fleet half a world away to fight a war in defense of its claims of conquest on the Falklands?”

I turn off the TV set and try to make sense of it all. How little has changed in more than a century, since the days of Herzl and Dreyfus. Firebombs hurled at Jewish schools and synagogues in France. A school bus carrying Jewish students in Paris bombed with stones. Protestors at a Rome demonstration dressed as suicide bombers. Orthodox Jews assaulted on the streets of north London. In France police reported nearly 360 crimes against Jews and Jewish institutions in the first two weeks of April alone. A kosher butcher’s shop was shot at. Teenagers on an amateur Jewish soccer team were assaulted with sticks and metal bars. Attackers broke into the Finsbury Park District Synagogue in north London, smashing windows, painting a swastika on a lectern and throwing holy books, skullcaps and prayer shawls on the floor. A British flag was left on the altar, prompting speculation that right-wing nationalists were responsible.

German Jews appeal to authorities to stop a spiral of violence against Jewish targets. An assailant threw a Molotov cocktail at a synagogue, a homemade bomb exploded at a Jewish cemetery and two Jewish women were assaulted at a Berlin subway station. A Berlin police official suggests that Jews should stop wearing religious symbols to avoid attacks.

Vandals throw red paint at a Holocaust memorial in the northern Greek city of Thessaloniki, in the second attack on Jewish monuments in Greece. In Canada, the land of tolerance, synagogues are burning, Jews are being beaten. The German and British governments are imposing a quiet boycott of Israel. The Swiss are talking of putting punitive tariffs on Israeli goods in public. Arafat and Kofi Annan are speaking of moral equivalency. And while 21 Arab states sit on their hands and their petrol billions instead of trying to better the conditions of their Palestinian brethren, the newly freed Yasser

Arafat is screaming hateful insults, calling Jews “Nazis”.

President Bush called for an all-out war on terrorism. Yet due to great pressures from America’s un-democratic but oil-rich allies in the Middle East, his Secretary of State pays a visit to the arch-terrorist Yasser Arafat in Ramallah. Along with many, Arafat regards Zionism as a way of making Palestinians pay for the Holocaust. Just a decade after he established al Fatah, the predecessor of the PLO, the “leader of the Palestinian people” consistently stated the purpose of his life: “The end of Israel is the goal of our struggle, and it allows for neither compromise nor mediation.” As he explained to Italian journalist Oriana Fallaci in 1972: “We don’t want peace. We want war, victory. Peace for us means the destruction of Israel and nothing else.”

It is dawn in Basel. A young couple are walking their dog by the Rhine. The pretty blond lady holding the leash is in about her eighth month of pregnancy. I look at her from my hotel window and suddenly I am filled with envy. That child who is about to be born into the world of this tiny nation will never see war. After all, there has been no war in this part of the world for centuries. There is no September 11th lurking in the future and their baby carriage will not likely be blown up by anyone.

I think of the hundreds of Jews who were murdered and the thousands maimed by Arab terror since the peace deal that they demanded was offered to them. I think of the Six Million who died in the Holocaust. The world never learns.

RECOGNIZING CLAYTON M. MEALER ON HIS APPOINTMENT TO THE U.S. MILITARY ACADEMY

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 16, 2002

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to recognize my constituent, Clayton M. Mealer of Defiance, Ohio, who recently accepted his appointment to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point.

Clayton will soon graduate from Defiance Senior High School. During his high school career, he has maintained a high grade point average, and is a member of the National Honor Society. He is an accomplished athlete, earning a varsity letter in football. And, he has clearly demonstrated his civic awareness, generously volunteering his time as a tutor, and in support of Habitat for Humanity and Clean the City Parks.

Clayton Mealer can be very proud of his many accomplishments. He is a credit to his family, his school, and his community. By accepting his appointment, Clayton is accepting a unique challenge.

The Academy is the pinnacle of leadership development for the United States Army. As a member of the U.S. Corps of Cadets, he will face a most demanding academic curriculum and physical regimen. He will live, study and prepare in an environment where strong leadership thrives, individual achievement is expected, and personal integrity is demanded.

Mr. Speaker, General John W. Vessey, Jr. once wrote, “The Nation’s ability to remain free and at peace depends in no small measure on whether we will continue to inspire our youth to serve.”

I am confident that Clayton Mealer has the character and ability to excel at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing him well as he begins his very important service to our nation.

COMMENDING THE PUERTO RICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF SOUTH FLORIDA

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 16, 2002

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the Puerto Rican Chamber of Commerce of South Florida, which celebrates its 10th Anniversary on June 8, 2002 with a salute to Federal Service Employees of Puerto Rican heritage at a Gala Dinner Dance in Miami, Florida.

The keynote speaker for the event is highly decorated naval aviator, Vice-Admiral Diego E. Hernandez, (Retired) U. S. Navy.

An Honor Roll listing will recognize the highest-ranking Puerto Ricans in each of the Federal agencies in South Florida, and additionally will pay tribute to the four Puerto Rican Medal of Honor recipients.

Three valuable and distinguished South Florida U.S. Government officials, Gilbert Colon, Deputy Director, SBA, Federico Costales, District Director, Florida, EEOC and Hector M. Pesquera, Special Agent in Charge, FBI, will serve as Honorary Co-chairs of the event.

Event Sponsor Vista Magazine and other corporations sponsor this Celebration, including: American Airlines and Unibank among others, the net proceeds of the event will benefit the Raul Julia Scholarship Fund for exemplary Puerto Rican Youth in need of financial assistance to realize their dreams of a college education.

The Puerto Rican Chamber of Commerce of South Florida has been an important factor in the development of Puerto Rican entrepreneurs in South Florida as well as a catalyst for increased trade between Florida and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

The Chamber has a partnership agreement with the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) for the dissemination of valuable business information to new and existing businesses, including education on how to access capital markets for small business loans guaranteed by the SBA programs.

Concurrently, the Chamber has achieved working relations with the Miami-Dade County departments of Procurement, Economic and Business Development, and is a promoter of Mayor Alex Pinellas’s “Business Express Action Team.” By their deeds, the Puerto Rican Chamber of South Florida has demonstrated their commitment to deliver outstanding services in developing minority businesses in cooperation with corporate America and the units of government dedicated to improving and facilitating business prosperity.

The Founding Board of Directors under the leadership and vision of Melvin “Skip” Chaves, the First Chairman, and all subsequent Board members, along with their first and current President Luis De Rosa, are to be commended for their dedication to make this